

My Genealogical Will

10 October 2017

Dear Descendants of Lewis (H) Blackledge,

My collection of family history records and artifacts has grown over the years, and I wish to provide these detailed instructions about what to do with it when I am deceased. It is my wish that one or more of you will serve as my "genealogical executor" to ensure these instructions are carried out. I specifically request my granddaughter Charlene Kaiya "Charlie" Blackledge to serve as executor for the Blackledge records, and my step-daughter Elizabeth Jane "Beth" Nolan Paiz to handle the Hirsch Cousins records. If my surviving son David Lewis Blackledge or if one of Bonnie's daughters or any of the grandchildren wish to follow up on the work I've done, or keep the memorabilia I have inherited, they should have first choice. But, realistically, these family records should eventually go back to Webster County, Nebraska, to Bucks County, PA, or to recognized digital genealogical repositories such as the Los Angeles Public Library or others named in this document. If the Blackledge family records of the ancestors become a burden to any recipient, they should be sent to the Webster Country Historical Museum in Red Cloud, NE which maintains a vertical file on the Blackledge Family or to the Genealogy Center, Main Library, Albuquerque so that later researchers can find them. Similarly, Hirsch Cousins records should be sent to the Nebraska Historical Society.

Attached to this "will" are some indexes of my family material with some specific bequests and the details of the material I have for each of the grandparents' families. I have itemized to some degree what I have: what the item is, where it is located, who should or might receive it, and other instructions. These indexes are a work in progress, and a more recent version perhaps may exist in my Turnover Notebook or other papers at the time of my death.

I will describe here the types of records I have collected (or generated), so you can put it all together.

0. **HARDCOPY BOOKS.** Of most importance to me are my 'personal' (Anundsen) publications of genealogical material in book format. Included in my collection is at least one of each of these publications. Here is their summary:

- *Blackledges in America (First Edition, 2002)* - ISBN ;
- *Blackledges in America (Second Edition on CD, July 2013)* - ISBN 978-0-9722704-1-0);
- *Blackledges in America (Second Edition, 2014)* - ISBN 978-0-9722704-2-7

I consider my greatest genealogic legacy to be these bound books and the CD that have been created by our "Magnum Opus" Team consisting of Mary Ann (Ryza) Blackledge of Grants Pass, OR; David W. Blackledge of Carlisle, PA; and myself. The Second Edition is our team's pre-eminent

work and I personally consider it to encompass my primary genealogical legacy. "*Blackledges in America*", Second Edition, Hard Copy version (ISBN 978-0-9722704-2-7), was published as a special limited edition (32 sets) in 2014. Erik Anundsen of Anundsen Publications, Decorah, IA, took a personal interest in printing the pages and shipping them to Roswell Bookbinding, Phoenix, AZ, to complete the binding process (Navy Blue Buckram, gold stamping, 3 volumes). The size of the Second Edition is 3,420 pages, and the hard copy publication consists of three volumes of 1,140 pages each. The publication includes 20 color pages. All 32 sets of the hard copy version have been distributed, including the one set I have in my bookcase at Stalgren Ct. Included in this distribution are six libraries across the United States: Library of Congress, Rushville Public Library (IN), Laurel-Jones Public Library (MS), Allen County Public Library (IN), Family History Library (Salt Lake City), and The Newberry (Chicago).

Finally, I would list this book, *Blackledge Stories*, 2018, ISBN nnn which was compiled solely by me with considerable written contributions from family and friends.

1. **RootsMagic DATABASE.** Of great importance is my RootsMagic (genealogy software program) computer database which contains the names of all the ancestors our Team has located. Mary Ann Blackledge is the primary administrator of the *Blackledges in America* extensive database, and I leave it to her to provide her database as part of her genealogical will. I have zip files of this database as compiled at different times during the 21st century. The zip files provide a RootsMagic database snapshot as of a particular date. Such a database includes names, dates, and places can be transferred by GEDCOM to other applications, plus the notes and sources. The keeper of this database is to have a version of RootsMagic from my Stalgren Ct Computer Room shelf with which to operate any version of the database. My RootsMagic program at Toro St contains the Hirsch Cousins database.
2. **COMPUTER FILES.** Because of the work of Mary Ann Blackledge, I consider my own computer files to be secondary resources. However, my photo and document scans, and some of my work such as for *Blackledge Stories* are unique to me, and will not be found on a Mary Ann database. On my computers (of which there are at least three primary) are files relating to many families, indexed by family name. The most recent files should be grouped by related families and burned to CD and copies given to the appropriate relatives. Most are in Family History folders.
3. **3-Ring BINDERS.** The binders are clearly marked with family names and color coding. By checking the family charts, you can tell which notebooks go in which families. Many genealogical repositories will accept these.
4. **FILE FOLDERS.** These are in a marked file drawer, identified by family name, and contain documents or photocopies too awkward to fit in binders.
5. **PHOTO ALBUMS AND LOOSE PHOTOS.** These, too, are marked with family names. Framed photos are also labeled, and should go with the other

family materials. Scanned ancestor photos are in the Pictures section of the computer, labeled with name and date.

6. MEMORABILIA. Family heirlooms and memorabilia are in labeled banker boxes in the office closet. These may be kept or given away as you choose. I also own a few 'large item' family heirlooms which will be described in the attached indexes.

7. BOOKS. Books with references to our ancestors should stay with the appropriate binders. Unwanted general reference books should be donated to the Albuquerque Genealogical Society.

8. CDs and DVDs. Check the shoebox on the office bookshelf for those about family history.

There are some other family history "investments" to tell you about. I have accounts with _____ DNA that will be on file forever at no further cost and can be accessed with number and password. Here are the accounts and passwords. My subscription to _____ (account & password) is automatically renewed and should be cancelled if you don't wish to use it. I also subscribe to these magazines and services.

9. **FindAGrave Memorials.** I am a contributor to FindAGrave.com as **Michael Blackledge** (Contributor #47408643). As a contributor/volunteer on this website who can no longer maintain "my" 150 or so memorials, please transfer my records to someone who has an active account and is willing to accept stewardship for the memorials. I would suggest **Mary Ann Blackledge** (Contributor #47289280) and John Farris (Contributor #4xxxxxx [John, please give me your # !!]) who are known to me if they are around and willing to take "my" memorials. "**MrsB**" (Contributor #47910340) is unknown to me but is one of many volunteers on FindAGrave willing to take over any records. I understand this will help reduce duplicate memorials. It would also be a good idea for me to provide specific instructions (although these are available on the site under their FAQs) on how to do make these transfers should I go inactive without warning.

*Here is the FAQ info from FindAGrave.com: **What will happen to the memorials that I created after I pass on? Can I set up a caretaker or steward to preside over the memorials that I created? What is the process?***

Right now, you can email info@findagrave.com if you have someone who has accepted stewardship (usually a family member) over the memorials you added. Please send in their member number. We will add a note to your member page stating the identity of the steward. You can have them email in after your passing and we will make sure that they have access to update the memorials. If you do not have a steward, then the management of your memorials may be passed on to close family members of the memorials that you have created. The family members can email the memorial numbers in (no more than five at a time) along with their close relationship to the deceased and their member number, asking for a transfer of management.

As time goes by, I am discarding and labeling items better. But things will never be in perfect order. I fully understand this request will result in

some extra work you will need to do. It is my hope that these records go to people who will share them with future generations. Thank you so much for taking care of this.

Gratefully,
Michael A. Blackledge